U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449A/PTO 10/579,318 Application Number INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date May 16, 2006 STATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor Tatsurou Iwasaki Art Unit 3673 (Use as many sheets as necessary) **Examiner Name** Not Yet Assigned Sheet 1 1 Attorney Docket Number 2950-061389 U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Examiner Cite Pages, Columns, Lines, **Publication Date** Document Number Name of Patentee or Initials\* MM-DD-YYYY Where Relevant Applicant of Cited Document Passages or Relevant Number - Kind Code<sup>2 (if known</sup> Figures Appear US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |  |                                |  |   |                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document  Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |                          | JP 63-185900 A   | 11-29-1988                     | Funakoshi  | Partial Translation   |                |
|                          |                          | JP 64-043700   | 02-15-1989                     | Sato Kogyo Co. Ltd.                                | English Abstract  |                |
|                          |                          | JP 07-189598   | 07-28-1995                     | K F C:KK et al.                                    | English Abstract  |                |
|                          |                          | JP 2003-206698   | 07-25-2003                     | Nisshin Steel Co. Ltd., et al.                     | English Abstract  |                |
|                          |                          | JP 2004-019181   | 01-22-2004                     | Nisshin Steel Co. Ltd., et al.                     | English Abstract  |                |
|                          |                          | JP 2005-076310   | 03-24-2005                     | Nisshin Steel Co. Ltd., et al.                     | English Abstract  |                |
|                          |                          | JP 2-5238 B  | 02-01-1990                     |  | None  |                |
|                          |                          | International Search Report<br>PCT/JP2004/011200   | 11/02/2004                     |  |   |                |
|                          |                          |  |                                |  |   |                |

|  | Examiner  | Date       |  |  |  |  |
|--|-----------|------------|--|--|--|--|
|  | Signature | Considered |  |  |  |  |

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="https://www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁴ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.